



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Antananarivo, Madagascar



Embassy Antananarivo was energetically engaging the Governments of Madagascar and the Comoros on a broad range of issues. Especially in regard to the latter, there was a risk of arousing unrealistic expectations about U.S. projects and support.

Embassy Antananarivo and the Department of State should assess the added value of reestablishing a permanent diplomatic presence in the Comoros. The cost of sustaining such an establishment likely would exceed \$800,000 annually.

Many American personnel assigned to the mission were able to conduct business in French, the language of the elites in both Madagascar and the Comoros. There is little capacity to work directly in the local languages (Malagasy and Comorian) spoken by the overwhelming majority of the population in the respective host countries.

The English Teaching Program (ETP), largest of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, was located in the American Cultural Center, which was not in compliance with many security standards. ETP should be privatized, and the non-English Teaching Program locally employed staff should be relocated. This could save the U.S. Government over \$1 million in three years.

The objective of supporting expansion of school facilities in Antananarivo is understandable, but the Office of Inspector General team recommended that the Office of the Legal Adviser and the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations review embassy decisions to accept gift property for use by the school.